

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors

From: Bryan DeAngelis

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CHRIS DODD: A CAREER OF SERVICE, A RECORD OF RESULTS

Healthy Families: The Cause of a Lifetime

Even before he led the way in crafting this year's landmark health care reform legislation, Chris Dodd made history as the author of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Inspired by the story of East Haddam neighbor Eva Bunnell and her daughter Jacinta, Dodd fought for years to pass the bill, overcoming two presidential vetoes and finally seeing the bill passed into law in 1993. Since then, more than 50 million people have been able to take time off from work without fear of losing their jobs. In recent years, Dodd has worked to expand the program so that families of injured soldiers can obtain additional leave to care for wounded warriors. And he continues to fight for a guaranteed paid leave program for all working Americans.

The Children's Senator

Chris Dodd formed the Senate's first Children's Caucus, and has spent years fighting for good child care. In 1990, he was responsible for passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which has provided billions of dollars to improve the quality of child care for low-income families. For twenty years, he has fought to improve and expand Head Start, being named "Senator of the Decade" by the National Head Start Association. In 2006, Dodd won passage of the Combating Autism Act – the largest-ever commitment of federal funding towards autism research. Last fall, Dodd led the fight for the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act to help keep kids safe from tobacco products. And his Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act, a groundbreaking effort to ensure the safety, efficacy, and availability of children's medicines, has proven to have opened the floodgates to lifesaving treatments for millions of American kids.

Protecting Consumers

Chris Dodd has sponsored legislation to protect credit card holders since his first term in the Senate, and in 2009, his decades of work paid off with the passage of the Credit Card Accountability and Disclosure Act, which puts an end to deceptive and abusive practices by credit card companies and protects consumers from unexplained fees and arbitrary rate hikes. Currently, Dodd is leading the fight to reform our nation's financial system, recently unveiling a bold plan that would create a special consumer protection agency to make sure Americans can make smart financial decisions and ending the "too big to fail" system that allowed the crisis of 2008 to take place.

Fighting for Connecticut's Defense Industry

America has benefited tremendously from the expertise and experience of Connecticut's defense industry. And Chris Dodd has fought tirelessly to protect those manufacturing jobs. Dodd has secured funding for numerous Connecticut-built defense projects, including everything from

submarines to aircraft – including, last fall, ten additional C-17s powered by Pratt and Whitney-built F-117 engines. Meanwhile, his work to save the Naval Submarine Base in New London in 2005 helped to save 31,000 jobs, and he has supported many new construction projects at the base.

Helping Families Keep Their Homes

In the wake of the foreclosure crisis, the Senate passed the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, which included a provision Chris Dodd authored to establish the HOPE for Homeowners program and added funding for foreclosure prevention efforts, including mortgage counseling. In 2009, Dodd championed the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act to make this foreclosure prevention program more user-friendly. It also expanded the universe of homeowners eligible for loan modifications; established tougher rules to combat fraud; and included new protections for renters living in foreclosed homes, a major problem in some Connecticut communities. And as Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, Dodd has held more than 50 hearings on the housing crisis, and continues to push for stronger and more effective efforts to provide relief to struggling homeowners.

The Senate's Number One Champion for Fire Fighters

Before September 11th, Chris Dodd wrote the law ensuring that fire fighters across the country would have the resources they needed to keep their communities safe. As a result of the FIRE and SAFER Acts Dodd wrote, more than 30,000 grants – totaling \$3 billion – have been awarded to help communities hire, train, and equip fire fighters. Dodd also introduced the Fire Administration Reauthorization bill, signed into law in 2008, which increased funding for the U.S. Fire Administration and expanded the range of training programs offered at the National Fire Academy.

Protecting Civil Rights

Because of landmark election reform legislation authored by Chris Dodd, more than million Americans were guaranteed the right to vote. The “Help America Vote Act,” passed by Congress and signed into law after the controversial 2000 election, has been called the most important voting rights legislation since the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by civil rights leader Rep. John Lewis. Chris Dodd also worked tirelessly to force a vote and pass the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, which was finally signed into law in October 2008. The legislation will increase the resources and ability of the FBI and the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute individuals who committed civil rights era murders.

A National Service Leader

A Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Chris Dodd has dedicated himself to promoting service. He fought to create the National and Community Service Act that helps to encourage community service through schools and community organizations. And he worked to establish AmeriCorps, which creates volunteer opportunities for thousands of Americans each year.

Standing Up for the Constitution

Chris Dodd led the fight in the Senate to stop the granting of retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies who participated in the Bush Administration's warrantless wiretapping program.